



EXHIBIT 7
DATE 3-19-07
HB 216

TO: Chairman Sinrud and Members of the House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Marg Crennen, Volunteer Advocates, AARP Montana

RE: **Support of HB 216, Increase residential energy alternative energy tax credit**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the record my name is Marg Crennen, volunteer advocate for AARP Montana. AARP is a non-partisan, non-profit membership organization with 153,000 members in the state.

We support HB 216 because it makes a worthwhile program in Montana more meaningful. For the last five years, AARP has done outreach and education about various programs available to Montanans to reduce their energy costs. We support the alternative energy tax credit because it is one of the programs available to middle income families and seniors, who have seen a dramatic increase in energy costs. While we continue to support help to limited income families, we realize many Montanans with higher incomes, often with increased medical and housing costs, could use relief from high energy costs.

Additionally, the tax credit is an effective incentive for long term positive changes to people's energy use.

As you know, many of the improvements covered in this credit are expensive to implement. This tax credit provides an incentive to families to make energy saving improvements that will have a life-long positive impact on savings and energy consumption.

Please support an increase in the alternative energy tax credit and support HB 216.